

CHUCK GRASSLEY, IOWA, CHAIRMAN

MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO	RON WYDEN, OREGON
PAT ROBERTS, KANSAS	DEBBIE STABENOW, MICHIGAN
MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING	MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS	ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA	THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA	BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO	SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
PATRICK J. TOOMEY, PENNSYLVANIA	MICHAEL F. BENNET, COLORADO
TIM SCOTT, SOUTH CAROLINA	ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
BILL CASSIDY, LOUISIANA	MARK R. WARNER, VIRGINIA
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA	SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
STEVE DAINES, MONTANA	MAGGIE HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA	CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, NEVADA
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA	

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

KOLAN DAVIS, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee
From: Senator Chuck Grassley, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee
Senator Ron Wyden, Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee
Date: December 16, 2020
Re: Findings from the Investigation of Opioid Manufacturers' Financial Relationships with Patient Advocacy Groups and other Tax-Exempt Entities

Dear Colleagues:

As the nation continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to bring your attention back to another concerning public health matter: our nation's opioid epidemic. Opioid overdoses claimed more than 450,000 lives in the United States from 1999 to 2019, and preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests drug overdose deaths, including those attributed to opioids, have accelerated since the pandemic began.¹ Indeed, COVID-19 has increased risk factors associated with substance-use disorders (SUDs) and opioid-use disorders (OUDs) like feelings of anxiety, depression, loneliness, and an ongoing sense of uncertainty.² For individuals suffering from these diseases, COVID-19 has even presented additional barriers to treatment and social support services as people are urged to stay-at-home and social distance.³ We are concerned that this will only worsen as our country continues to battle COVID-19 and as social isolation and lack of access to SUD and OUD treatment persists.

As the opioid epidemic and its impact on programs within the Finance Committee's jurisdiction shows no signs of abating, we write to provide you with an update on the

¹ *Opioid Overdose, Data Analysis and Resources*, CTNS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/analysis.html> (last viewed Dec. 10, 2020).

² Alex Edelman, *Overdose deaths appear to rise amid coronavirus pandemic in U.S.*, NBC NEWS (Oct. 20, 2020), <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/overdose-deaths-appear-rise-amid-coronavirus-pandemic-u-s-n1244024>; Jon Kamp and Arian Campo-Flores, *The Opioid Crisis, Already Serious, Has Intensified During Coronavirus Pandemic*, WALL ST. J. (Sept. 8, 2020), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-opioid-crisis-already-serious-has-intensified-during-coronavirus-pandemic-11599557401>.

³ Jon Kamp and Arian Campo-Flores, *The Opioid Crisis, Already Serious, Has Intensified During Coronavirus Pandemic*, WALL ST. J. (Sept. 8, 2020), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-opioid-crisis-already-serious-has-intensified-during-coronavirus-pandemic-11599557401>. See also DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS., OFF. OF INSPECTOR GEN., OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAMS REPORTED CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS THEM (Nov. 2020), https://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region9/92001001.asp?utm_source=web&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=covid-A-09-20-01001.

American Academy of Pain Medicine ¹

Company	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Grand Total
AbbVie		\$7,500	\$6,000						\$13,500
Allergan ²	\$2,750	\$17,900	\$3,000						\$23,650
AstraZeneca			\$78,750	\$84,167	\$50,000	\$25,000			\$237,917
Cara Therapeutics				\$67,000	\$60,000	\$73,625			\$200,625
Cephalon ³			\$120,000						\$120,000
Collegium Pharmaceutical					\$11,000	\$28,500	\$15,000	\$17,700	\$72,200
Daiichi Sankyo					\$52,225	\$329,510	\$161,250	\$147,000	\$689,985
Depomed	\$20,925	\$57,000	\$57,825	\$46,000	\$60,500	\$53,500	\$11,000	\$7,500	\$314,250
Endo Pharmaceuticals	\$75,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$6,400	\$96,920	\$26,630			\$224,950
Insys Therapeutics		\$18,000	\$19,200	\$9,725		\$5,800			\$52,725
Janssen Pharmaceuticals	\$83,475								\$83,475
Johnson & Johnson		\$7,500							\$7,500
Kaleo				\$87,000	\$75,000	\$77,500			\$239,500
Malinckrodt Pharmaceuticals		\$17,900	\$37,021	\$8,350					\$63,271
Nektar Therapeutics		\$92,400	\$97,050	\$24,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000		\$258,450
Novartis Pharmaceuticals		\$3,000	\$3,000					\$143,365	\$149,365
Permixon Therapeutics				\$15,000	\$82,000	\$91,000	\$76,500		\$264,500

Company	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Grand Total
Pfizer	\$110,000	\$127,125	\$88,333	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$83,333	\$110,000		\$668,791
Purdue Pharma	\$185,000	\$164,250	\$171,000	\$117,000	\$83,500	\$42,500			\$763,250
Salix Pharmaceuticals	\$5,500	\$21,474	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$38,500	\$10,000	\$19,500	\$101,974
Shionogi				\$5,000	\$15,000	\$50,000			\$70,000
Teva Pharmaceuticals	\$30,000	\$129,900	\$138,540	\$323,185	\$281,050	\$95,500		\$19,710	\$1,017,885
Zogenix		\$95,800	\$174,000	\$84,800					\$354,600
Annual Total	\$512,650	\$769,749	\$1,003,719	\$952,627	\$964,195	\$1,035,898	\$398,750	\$354,775	\$5,992,363

¹ During the final stages of the Committee's investigation, the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) provided additional data showing millions of dollars in additional payments from opioid manufacturers to AAPM and its affiliated 501(c)(3) entity, the American Academy of Pain Medicine Foundation (the Foundation). In addition to nearly \$6 million AAPM received directly from opioid manufacturers, the organization reported \$1.1 million in revenue from the Foundation from 2013 to 2017. The additional data provided by AAPM shows that the Foundation, in turn, received \$1 million in payments from opioid manufacturers from 2013 to 2019.

² Acquired by Actavis in November 2014.

³ Acquired by Teva in May 2011.